

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 3.21.2023

Rise and Resist Contact Information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
- Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/
- General email: info@riseandresist.org
- Press email: media@riseandresist.org
- Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom. To sign up for the Zoom meeting click [here](#).

Facilitators: Jamie and Karin **Note Taker:** Sandy 24 in attendance

New process for non RAR announcements or to put other things on the agenda:
Use rar.facilitation@gmail.com before 3PM on Monday!

GOOD NEWS!

• Trump's criminal indictment in NY is imminent - even if it is the Stormy Daniels case.
<https://nypost.com/2023/03/21/trump-slams-enemies-stormy-daniels-extortion-plot-ahead-of-arrest/>

• Survey shows FOX viewers are questioning what FOX says more closely because of the Dominion lawsuit.

• Another producer is suing Fox. Stations are refusing to pay the high fees because of their reputation.

• We got great news coverage of our action outside Alvin Bragg's office on Monday morning, March 20. In addition, here is a link to a tweet from Mary Trump (1.6 million followers).

<https://twitter.com/MaryLTrump/status/1638268867196735513>

UPCOMING ACTIONS

Thursday March 23rd—Close Rikers Rally

9 am at Tweed Courthouse (52 Chambers St.)—Close Rikers Rally

We will be supporting Freedom Agenda's demands to close Rikers and reinvest the money in community resources such as housing, healthcare, education, and employment.

Thursday March 23—Immigration Vigil

5 pm - Grand Central

We will be supporting Freedom Agenda's demands to close Rikers and reinvest the money in community resources such as housing, healthcare, education, and employment.

Friday March 24 (and every Friday)—Say Their Names

5 pm at 96th and Broadway. We will alert people via email by 4:30 pm on Friday if the event has to be cancelled due to weather.

Tuesday March 28 (and every Tuesday)—Truth Tuesday

Fox Headquarters (47th St. and Sixth Ave.) at noon
Join us to help America to Detox from Fox

Thursday March 29—Rally to Demand Working Elevators

8:30 to 9:30 am at MTA Headquarters, 2 Broadway
We will rally outside the MTA Headquarters before the monthly board meeting to demand that Governor Kathy Hochul improve elevator reliability and alert riders to breakdowns and fix them promptly. Note that about 25 to 30 kids from the Earth School who are studying disability activism will be joining us. Several city officials will be there as well.

Facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/4ljm3s5Ru>

Wednesday March 29—ARREST TRUMP Action

1 pm Trump Tower
We are still waiting for indictments to be handed down by New York, Georgia, and the DOJ. In the meanwhile, we have lots of props and lots to say about Trump. Depending what happens we may cancel or change the date/time of this action.

Made posters that cost over \$479. Did it without getting approved. Voted to approve and it was **APPROVED**

Saturday April 1 (and first Saturday of each month)—Clinic Defense

8 am to 10 am, starts at Old St. Pats (Mott and Elizabeth St.)
We will join NYCFAR to provide clinic defense.

Monday April 3—Rikers Vigil

Times Square Subway Concourse (between the shuttle and th #1, #2, #3 trains)
Join us as we call on Mayor Adams to Close Rikers. We are doing this the first Monday of every month.

Dates TBD—Support Drag Story Hour

Contact Jamie by email at bauwau2@gmail.com if you want to be on the list.

Center for Community Alternatives to Discuss Albany Decarceration Bills

Tanya Linn Albrigtsen-Frable, Director of Communications for Community Alternatives, came to speak to RaR in Katie Schaffer's place. (Katie is the Director of Advocacy and Organizing.) Tanya focused on their newest campaign Communities Not Cages campaign which is pushing for NY state to pass three laws:

1. Eliminate Mandatory Minimums Act

This legislation would eliminate mandatory minimum sentences, allowing judges to consider the individual factors and mitigating circumstances in a case. In doing so, the Eliminate Mandatory Minimums Act will finally undo the harm of the Rockefeller Drug Law era. This legislation would also create a presumption against incarceration, requiring a hearing before any period of incarceration can be imposed and reorienting the system towards healing and accountability and away from purely punitive prison sentences.

2. Earned Time Act

Earned time helps to prepare incarcerated people for reintegration and to restore them to their families and communities. The Earned Time Act will strengthen and expand “good time” and “merit time” laws to encourage personal transformation in prison and reunite families.

3. Second Look Act

The Second Look Act allows incarcerated people to petition for resentencing and permits judges to revisit and reduce sentences, giving New Yorkers the opportunity to return to their families and communities, and to rebuild their lives. Nationally, second look bills are gaining momentum with legislation passed in four states— Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Oregon—and the District of Columbia, and proposed in an additional 22 states. Federally, U.S. Senator Cory Booker has proposed second look legislation in Congress.

[Here is a link to a great booklet that goes into more detail on the three bills mentioned above.](#)

Tanya said we can get involved by contacting our representatives to push them to support these bills and by doing things on social media.

Kavanaugh has sponsored Second Look but not eliminating mandatory minimums or earned time/merit time. We need calls to Kavanaugh to pressure him to co-sponsor those bills.

Cut and paste the bitly link below into your browser to access a sign up form that will enable you to stay on top of what CCA is doing and get involved in their Communities Not Cages Campaign.

bit.ly/CNCNY

Q: Any programs to help people re-enter?

The focus at state level is on bail reform. Hochul may hesitate to support these bills because she'll be perceived as soft on crime. This is something CCA is seeing in NY State politics but Tanya feels there's a good shot that some of these bills can get through.

CCA's Clean Slate Campaign addresses some of the issues related to re-entry.

Clean Slate legislation is crucial to ensure that the **2.3 million New Yorkers with conviction histories** — who are disproportionately Black and Brown — can fully and fairly participate in our shared communities and be a vibrant part of our state's economy. We all need access to jobs, housing, and education in order to live safely and securely, but people with convictions are repeatedly blocked from these life essentials, sometimes serving a civil life sentence.

Click on link below to get involved with the Clean Slate Campaign.

<https://www.cleanslateny.org/take-action>

Key websites

communitiesnotcagesny.org

communityalternatives.org

Contact Katie Schaffer at kschaffer@communityalternatives.org with any questions or for more information about CCA's initiatives.

The Circus on Showtime and FOX Truth Tuesdays

The fiasco with Showtime's The Circus and FOX and what actually happened...

Set up: The Circus called Julie and told her they wanted to come and film us on a snowy cold plaza on Tuesday, March 14. In addition to filming, they interviewed a bunch of us. On that Tuesday night, they emailed and asked a few of us to come back at 9 am on Wednesday to shoot a quick promo which they had forgotten to do on Tuesday.

As a courtesy they sent the whole segment to FOX to review. Fox accused the Circus of manufacturing a protest (on Wednesday) and threatened legal action. The Circus decided to leave us out entirely in response. They did, however, openly discuss this on the show. The two short video clips below include their discussion.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/wdxtk6likzun20i/IMG_3582.MOV?dl=0

https://www.dropbox.com/s/5zunghozo5yyafd/IMG_3585.MOV?dl=0

Reactions

They set up a false equivalency to get all of our footage off the show. Fox helped overthrow the election and Circus did a promo.

We will push the Circus video out on social media.

These things happen. We're tying them up and getting press.

We should have at least gotten an email from the producers to let us know.

Fox is watching us, their legal department etc. This is good. This is making work for them.

Silver lining is that we are definitely on Fox's radar and they are concerned.

Media Coaching Session

In response to our experience talking to the Circus, Julie has lined up a friend to prep us for the highly likely next encounter with the media to ensure we are ready.

This coaching session will take place on zoom on April 10 at 6 pm.

Email Julie at Julie.delaurier@gmail.com to get on the list for the free public speaking coaching to help hone talking points for when microphones/cameras are stuck in your face at an action.

REPORT BACKS

Wednesday March 15, Hochul at the Metropolitan Museum

20 showed up. Bitterly cold and very windy. Signs were blowing us around. Jay really led us in the chanting. Jamie negotiated with the security staff about our presence on the steps. No police there at the beginning. People were lining up along the front of the museum. We had a captive audience of the attendees. A few people from PGN and Indivisible joined us. Everyone on the line was leafletted. Hochul never showed up while we were there so she either was very late or went in a side entrance.

Here is the leaflet we handed out at the Met Museum about Hochul:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Fww5JQCgMgsFYA2ps3YDaqAwblaITYM1/view?usp=sharing>

Hochul action expenses came in at \$350 to \$400 for signage, above the \$300 originally asked for. The higher dollar amount was **APPROVED**

Say Their Names - Friday, March 17

And every Friday at 5 pm at 96th & Broadway

We actually had it finally. Weather didn't interfere. Good to be back again. Moving to summer hours which will be 5 to 6 pm. By 4:30 pm we'll let people know via email if we have to cancel. Lots of people look for us and feel reassured to see us there.

Saturday, March 18—Invest in Our New York March

About 100 people participated, mostly from the labor campaign, Make the Road NY, NYCC etc. They had puppets of Hochul and her billionaire donors. Marched from Columbus Circle and near where billionaires lived and did a 5 to 10 minute speakout at each stop. The march took off and Mark couldn't follow because (as a rear marshal) he was watching over an elderly guy who couldn't walk well so Mark stayed to help him onto a bus. He couldn't rejoin the march because he didn't know the route since it hadn't been publicized. This is worthy of some feedback to the organizers.

Sunday, March 19--Drag Story Hour at the Center

Many RaRers were there and lots of GAG folks as well as people from the Center. Wonderful outpouring of people. When we arrived there were only 4 from the opposition. More showed up later for a total of maybe 10 to 15. It ended in violence after the Proud Boys showed up. One of the Proud Boys got rowdy and got into a dust up with one of the ninjas and a punch was thrown. The Proud Boy went after some others and got arrested. Lots of coverage. We had a great showing.

Lots of awesome photos of Sonni Mun from Moms Demand and GAG everywhere including Rolling Stone. Click on this link to see one of the photos.

<https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-news/letitia-james-drag-story-hour-man-arrested-protesters-clash-new-york-1234699966/>

Monday, March 20--Trump Action at Braggs Office

A small group planning meeting after DSH on Sunday led to a decision to meet in front of Bragg's office at 9 am on Monday morning. It turned out to be the right time to be there because it was crawling with press who had nothing to do but take photos of us.

We exercised our first amendment rights well and took the street in front of Bragg's office. The press meekly went across the street and got penned in. The one giant MAGA sign didn't spell George right. We got great coverage. It was a great action. Signage was great. In fact, one right wong news show accused us of having signs that were so professional they must be financed by Soros. We got tremendous coverage of this action in most major newspapers and several TV shows.

Buzzfeed Julie is quoted

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/davidmack/trump-demonstrators-new-york-court>

Third Act Climate Action--Tuesday, March 21

Major climate action started at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza

Third Act, Bill McKibben's organization of those over 60 to get involved in fighting for the environment, had its first major national action last Tuesday focused on the four largest banks that lend the most to finance fossil fuel projects. The NY group focused on Chase and encouraged folks to cut up their Chase credit cards. About 200 to 250 people showed up. There was music and singing with Rev. Billy as the MC. A marching band led the way from Dag Hammarskjold Plaza to Chase followed by our RaR banner which said **Chase Funds Climate Crimes** on a bright flame-colored background. It was spirited and colorful. Below is an article

from WaPo covering the nationwide actions as well as fantastic pictures of the NY action by Diane Lent and a wonderful video by Dave Lippman.

Why seniors are blocking entrances to the four largest U.S. banks

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/03/21/climate-banks-protest-fossil-fuels/>

Wonderful photos of the action by Diane Lent.

[Third Act | Flickr](#)

Video of Third Act action on Tuesday by Dave Lippman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2feqQFZry0&feature=youtu.be>

FOX - Truth Tuesday every Tuesday at 12 noon

FOX "News" headquarters 47th St/6 Ave.

4 puppeteers were very effective. Tucker, Murdoch, Ingram, and Hannity.

Media Matters affairs contacted Julie-gave Julie actionable intelligence that FOX was hosting ad buyers right then.

We created some chants about warning Ad buyers not to buy ads on Fox because they're becoming toxic.

Sent Andrea the TikTok and Media Matter is going to retweet it. We're on their radar.

Energy on the plaza is amazing. Ranks are growing and the message is tight.

Links below get you to the fabulous photos Jackie Rudin took on Tuesday.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/191497767@N03/52767133141/in/album-72177720306946797/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/191497767@N03/albums/72177720306946797/with/52767133141/>

Non-RaR announcements

NY Atheists reached out to RaR and are fired up after Adams comments that suggest no separation between church and state. They have a letter and want to organize things around Adams to push back on his comments. NY Atheists would like our help to identify some good press contacts. They thought we'd be sympathetic and that we'd show up and take part. More to follow in the future. Contact Rick Weisfeld with questions

March 28 Lobby Day with NY Renews

NY Renews is sponsoring a lobbying day next Tuesday in Albany. It's the last chance to influence the budget negotiations and push for funding of three climate initiatives related to renewable energy and jobs. Use the link below to sign up and get on one of several buses heading up to Albany that day.

Action network to Albany:

https://actionnetwork.org/events/march-28th-mobilization-for-the-climate-jobs-and-justice-package?source=direct_link&

April 20, May 31, June 1 and 2—save the dates—Supportive Housing Events

Anyone interested in supportive housing tenant/applicant activist/protest or/and assisting with training/organizing (mainly nyc but growing via networking) can message Kat at katcorbell19@gmail.com

Wendy's weekly newsletter

[https://mailchi.mp/49ce4f9db667/fight-dirty-banks-fossil-fuels-and-fox-propaganda?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/49ce4f9db667/fight-dirty-banks-fossil-fuels-and-fox-propaganda?e=[UNIQID])

RISE AND RESIST